(b) if so, the private companies/industries selected therefor during the years 1999-2000 and 2001-2002 and the criteria for their selection; and

(c) the number of programmes produced by each and amount paid to them therefor, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Media coverage of Gujarat situation

3564. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council Chairman has issued a strong statement against the media coverage of Gujarat situation;

(b) if so, whether he has also warned that any news report printed or published by the print media of relayed by the electronic media in contravention of ethical norms in reporting is likely to invite penal action under the provisions of Section 295-A of the Indian Penal Code and allied provisions;

(c) whether there have been reports of violations of this code by the media and the press; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take against the media and the press?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Chairman, Press Council of India, through press releases, appealed to the media to promote peace and harmony among the people in Gujarat. While making the appeal, he also *inter-alia* brought the penal provision to the notice of the media.

(c) and (d) Press Council of India has informed that complaints in this regard are under their scrutiny.

European Film Festival in New Delhi

3565. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth European Film Festival was held in New Delhi from March 7, 2002 onwards;

(b) if so, the basic theme of this Film Festival and the countries which participated therein; and

(c) the main objectives of the festival and how far the same were achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ninth European Union Film Festival was held in New Delhi from 5—12 March, 2002 and subsequently in Chennai and Kolkata.

(b) There was no specific theme for the festival. Fifteen European countries namely, Spain, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Ireland, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Finland, Portugal, France, Sweden and Belgium participated in the Festival.

(c) The main obejctive of the festival was to promote cultural interaction between the people of the European Union Member States and the people of India through the medium of cinema. The response to the festival from the viewing public was very enthusiastic. As such, the festival was successful.

Backlog of vacancies in the Indian Broadcasting Engineering Service Cadre

3566. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a backlog for ST and other reserved categories in the senior time scale of Indian Broadcasting Engineering Service Cadre despite the availability of enormous number of eligible officers to be promoted from junior time scale to senior time scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Promotions to the Senior Time Scale of Indian Broadcasting (Engineers) Service could not be made as the seniority list of the feeder grade of Junior Time Scale of the service was quashed by Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Principal Bench New Delhi *vide* its orders dated 10.2.2000. The orders of the CAT have since been challenged in the Delhi High Court. A fresh seniority list has, however, been prepared on 10.4.2002 to consider promotions against all the vacant posts, including posts for reserved categories.